

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1977 – Desmond Habel

Des Habel (RDA, 1947) attended the College during 1937-1940, his war service intervened and he completed his diploma in 1947.

During the war, Des was a member of the Veterinary Corp attached to the 9-23 Light Horse. In 1941 he transferred to the AIF and served in Darwin and the Pacific Islands. In 1948, Des joined the Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservation Field Officer and in 1950 was appointed District Stock Inspector at Port Lincoln, where he lived and worked as Animal Health Adviser with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries until 1972.

Des Habel was awarded the PL Puckridge Shield by the Coult-Wangary Agricultural Bureau in 1973 for the person who made the greatest contribution to Agriculture in the preceding 12 months.

Des was a member of ROCA Eyre Peninsula Committee for 26 years, many of these years as secretary of the branch, during which time he initiated the Branch Day Picnic and Ladies Dinner. His enthusiasm for ROCA resulted in the Eyre Peninsula Branch being the Association's strongest over many years.

Des Habel's activities were not only confined to his work and ROCA – he was a member of St Thomas' Church of England, Port Lincoln, a successful breeder, owner and trainer of thoroughbred horses, a member of the Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinsmen's Association and an active member of the local branch of the RSL.

